



THE PHILLIPSTOWN MURDER AND CONVICTION OF LAURENCE & MARGRET SHIELLS

In bitter anguish we now reveal
A most heart-rending and feeling tale
Tried and found guilty condemn'd to die
In our youth & vigour on the gallows high

Laurence & Margret Shielis it is our names
We brought ourselves to sad grief & shame
Dear Phillipstown you are all aware
By honest parents we both were rear'd

This cold-blooded mur'er as you may know
Has caus'd our downfall & said overthrew
With wrath and malice we did agree
Of our blood relation reveng'd to be

Our cause to murder him as you shall hear
He held in turf his lawful share
We did begrudge him so well off to be
Tho' we'd land and money and pr party

With rifle and pistol we did prepare
To take his life in the open air
About eight o'clock we slew poor Dunn
Our second Couser the poor widower Sou

It's when we met him we bid him adieu
Saying your life this moment we doon and
My sister Margret fire'd the fatal ball
To our sad misfortune which made him fall

Of the second p'stol we the trigger drew
And through his scou'der its contents flew
Without shame or mercy we were no way loth
But use'd all endeavours for to cut his throat

Three scars we gave him with a deadly knife
But after all we could not take his life
In a ditch of water he fai'd and more
We threw our murder'd victim all in his gore

He liv'd till next day in great agony
And his dying words prov'd our destiny
His blood for vengeance should deserv
And in shame & scandise now must die

We bid farewell to this world of woe
And from this sinful earth we soon must go
For the soul of John Dunn let each assist an
paay
And for our salvation on our dying day